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GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

General Election Result

The Conservative Party gained a majority of 43 over all other parties in the new House of Commons elected on 3 May.

The table below shows the number of seats obtained by each party:

	Seats
Conservative	339
Labour	268
Liberal	11
Scottish National	2
Plaid Cymru (Welsh Nationalists)	2
Official Unionist (Northern Ireland)	5
Democratic Unionist (Northern Ireland)	3
United Ulster Unionist	1
Ulster Unionist	1
Social Democratic and Labour (Northern Ireland)	1
Independent (Northern Ireland)	1
Speaker	1
	635

The total number of voters entitled to vote in the election was some 41 million, and 76 per cent of the electorate cast their votes, compared with 72·8 per cent in October 1974. The percentages of votes cast for the three main parties were as follows:

Conservative	43·9
Labour	36·9
Liberal	13·8
Others	5·4

All 635 seats were contested and there were 2,571 candidates compared with 2,252 in October 1974. The Conservative and Labour Parties both had 622 candidates, and the Liberal Party 575. The Scottish National Party contested all 71 seats in Scotland and received 17 per cent of the Scottish votes cast. Plaid Cymru contested all 36 seats in Wales and received 8·3 per cent of the vote there. The National Front contested 301 seats (and received 191,267 votes, well under 1 per cent of the total vote); the Workers' Revolutionary Party contested 60 seats, the Ecology Party 53 and the Communist Party 38.

The 12 seats in Northern Ireland were contested by a variety of political groups including the Official Unionist Party, the United Ulster Unionists, the Democratic Unionist Party, the Social Democratic and Labour Party, the Alliance Party, the Northern Ireland Labour Party and a number of others.

The distribution of votes[1] among the main parties was as follows:

Conservative	13,697,753
Labour	11,509,524
Liberal	4,313,931
Scottish National	504,259
Plaid Cymru	132,544
Others	1,062,779
	31,220,790

The New Government

Following the general election the Queen asked Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Leader of the Conservative Party, to form a Government. Mrs Thatcher becomes Britain's first woman prime minister. Her Cabinet and other ministerial appointments are listed below.

THE CABINET

Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury and Minister for the Civil Service
Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP

Secretary of State for the Home Department
Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP

Lord Chancellor
Rt Hon The Lord Hailsham of Saint Marylebone, CH, FRS

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister of Overseas Development
Rt Hon The Lord Carrington, KCMG, MC

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP

Secretary of State for Industry
Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph, Bt, MP

Secretary of State for Defence
Rt Hon Francis Pym, MC, MP

[1] These figures are taken from the national press.

Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords
Rt Hon The Lord Soames, GCMG, GCVO, CBE

Secretary of State for Employment
Rt Hon James Prior, MP

Lord Privy Seal
Rt Hon Sir Ian Gilmour, Bt, MP

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Rt Hon Peter Walker, MBE, MP

Secretary of State for the Environment
Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, MP

Secretary of State for Scotland
Rt Hon George Younger, TD, MP

Secretary of State for Wales
Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards, MP

Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins, MP

Secretary of State for Social Services
Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Leader of the House of Commons
Rt Hon Norman St John-Stevas, MP

Secretary of State for Trade
Rt Hon John Nott, MP

Secretary of State for Energy
Rt Hon David Howell, MP

Secretary of State for Education and Science
Rt Hon Mark Carlisle, QC, MP

Chief Secretary to the Treasury
Rt Hon John Biffen, MP

Paymaster General
Rt Hon Angus Maude, TD, MP

The Cabinet consists of 22 ministers. The Minister of Transport, Mr Norman Fowler, MP, will not be a member of the Cabinet but will attend Cabinet meetings.

DEPARTMENTAL MINISTERS

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

Minister
Rt Hon Peter Walker, MBE, MP

Ministers of State
The Earl Ferrers
Mr Alick Buchanan-Smith, MP

Parliamentary Secretary
Mr Jerry Wiggin, TD, MP

Civil Service Department

Minister
Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP

Lord President of the Council
Rt Hon The Lord Soames, GCMG, GCVO, CBE

Minister of State
Mr Paul Channon, MP

Ministry of Defence

Secretary of State
Rt Hon Francis Pym, MC, MP

Minister of State
The Lord Strathcona

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Keith Speed, MP (Royal Navy)
Mr Barney Hayhoe, MP (Army)
Mr Geoffrey Pattie, MP (Royal Air Force)

Duchy of Lancaster

Chancellor
Rt Hon Norman St John-Stevas, MP

Department of Education and Science

Secretary of State
Rt Hon Mark Carlisle, QC, MP

Minister of State
The Baroness Young

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Dr Rhodes Boyson, MP
Mr Neil Macfarlane, MP

Department of Employment

Secretary of State
Rt Hon James Prior, MP

Minister of State
The Earl of Gowrie

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr James Lester, MP
Mr Patrick Mayhew, QC, MP

Department of Energy

Secretary of State
Rt Hon David Howell, MP

Minister of State
Mr Hamish Gray, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Norman Lamont, MP
Mr John Moore, MP

Department of the Environment

Secretary of State
Rt Hon Michael Heseltine, MP

Minister of State (Minister for Housing)
Mr John Stanley, MP

Minister of State (Minister for Local Government)
Rt Hon Tom King, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Marcus Fox, MBE, MP
Mr Geoffrey Finsberg, MBE, MP
Mr Irwin Bellow[1]
Mr Hector Monro, MP (with special responsibilities for sport)

[1]A life peerage is being conferred on Mr Bellow; he will be the Department's spokesman in the House of Lords.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Secretary and State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and Minister of Overseas Development
Rt Hon The Lord Carrington, KCMG, MC

Lord Privy Seal
Rt Hon Sir Ian Gilmour, Bt, MP

Ministers of State
Hon Douglas Hurd, CBE, MP
Hon Nicholas Ridley, MP
Mr Peter Blaker, MP
Mr Neil Marten, MP (with special responsibility for overseas development)

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
Mr Richard Luce, MP

Department of Health and Social Security
Secretary of State for Social Services
Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin, MP

Minister of State (Minister for Health)
Dr Gerard Vaughan, MP

Minister of State (Minister for Social Security, with special responsibility for the disabled)
Rt Hon Reginald Prentice, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Sir George Young, Bt, MP
Mrs Lynda Chalker, MP

Home Office
Secretary of State
Rt Hon William Whitelaw, CH, MC, MP

Ministers of State
Mr Timothy Raison, MP
Mr Leon Brittan, QC, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State
The Lord Belstead

Department of Industry
Secretary of State
Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph, Bt, MP

Ministers of State
Hon Adam Butler, MP
The Viscount Trenchard, MC

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Michael Marshall, MP
Mr David Mitchell, MP

Law Officers' Department
Attorney General
Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers, QC, MP

Solicitor General
Sir Ian Percival, QC, MP

Lord Advocate's Department
Lord Advocate
Rt Hon James Mackay, QC

Solicitor General for Scotland
Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, QC, MP

Lord Chancellor's Office
Lord Chancellor
Rt Hon The Lord Hailsham of Saint Marylebone, CH, FRS

Lord Privy Seal
Lord Privy Seal
Rt Hon Sir Ian Gilmour, Bt, MP

Northern Ireland Office
Secretary of State
Rt Hon Humphrey Atkins, MP

Ministers of State
Mr Michael Alison, MP
Mr Hugh Rossi, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
The Lord Elton, TD
Mr Philip Goodhart, MP
Mr Giles Shaw, MP

Paymaster General's Office
Paymaster General
Rt Hon Angus Maude, TD, MP

Privy Council Office
Lord President of the Council
Rt Hon The Lord Soames, GCMG, GCVO, CBE

Scottish Office
Secretary of State
Rt Hon George Younger, TD, MP

Minister of State
The Earl of Mansfield

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Alexander Fletcher, MP
Mr Russell Fairgrieve, CBE, TD, MP
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP

Department of Trade
Secretary of State
Rt Hon John Nott, MP

Minister of State
Mr Cecil Parkinson, MP

Minister of State (Minister for Consumer Affairs)
Rt Hon Sally Oppenheim, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Norman Tebbit, MP
Mr Reginald Eyre, MP

Department of Transport
Minister
Rt Hon Norman Fowler, MP

Parliamentary Secretary
Mr Kenneth Clarke, MP

Treasury
First Lord
Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP

Chancellor of the Exchequer
Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, MP

Chief Secretary
Rt Hon John Biffen, MP

Parliamentary Secretary (Government Chief Whip)
Rt Hon Michael Jopling, MP

Financial Secretary
Mr Nigel Lawson, MP

Ministers of State
Mr Peter Rees, QC, MP
The Lord Cockfield

Welsh Office
Secretary of State
Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards, MP

Parliamentary Under-Secretaries of State
Mr Michael Roberts, MP
Mr Wyn Roberts, MP

OFFICERS OF THE QUEEN'S HOUSEHOLD AND GOVERNMENT WHIPS

House of Commons
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (Government Chief Whip)
Rt Hon Michael Jopling, MP

Treasurer of the Household (Deputy Chief Whip)
Mr John Stradling Thomas, MP

Comptroller of the Household
Mr Spencer Le Marchant, MP

Vice-Chamberlain of the Household
Hon Anthony Berry, MP

Lords Commissioners of the Treasury
Mr Carol Mather, MC, MP
Hon Peter Morrison, MP
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, MP
Mr John MacGregor, OBE, MP
Mr David Waddington, QC, MP

Assistant Whips
Hon Robert Boscawen, MC, MP
Mr John Cope, MP
Mr Antony Newton, MP
Mr John Wakeham, MP
Hon Peter Brooke, MP

House of Lords
Captain of the Gentlemen-at-Arms (Chief Whip)
The Lord Denham

Captain of the Yeomen of the Guard (Deputy Chief Whip)
The Lord Sandys

Lords in Waiting
The Lord Mowbray and Stourton
The Viscount Long
The Lord Lyell
The Lord Cullen of Ashbourne
The Lord Trefgarne

MINISTERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs will be responsible for the Ministry of Overseas Development. There will be no separate Minister of Overseas Development. The Lord Privy Seal, Sir Ian Gilmour, will answer for foreign affairs in the House of Commons.

The Department of Prices and Consumer Protection is to be merged with the Department of Trade. Mrs Sally Oppenheim as a Minister of State in the Department will have responsibility for consumer affairs.

Lord Soames, the Lord President of the Council, is also Leader of the House of Lords and will assume day-to-day responsibility for the Civil Service Department.

Mr Norman St John-Stevas, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, is also Leader of the House of Commons and will have ministerial responsibility for the Arts.

Mr Angus Maude, the Paymaster General, will be responsible for the co-ordination of information.

Mr William Whitelaw will deputise for the Prime Minister in her absence.

Opening of Parliament

The Queen's speech on the opening of the first session of the new Parliament – the forty-eighth Parliament of the United Kingdom – was delivered in the House of Lords on 15 May to members of both Houses.[1]

The text of the speech, which outlines the Government's policies for the coming session,[2] was as follows:

My Lords and Members of the House of Commons,

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving the President of Kenya on a State Visit in June and to paying State Visits to Denmark this month and to Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana and Zambia in July. I also look forward to being present on the occasion of the Commonwealth heads of Government meeting in Lusaka at the beginning of August.

My Government will take steps to improve the security of the nation and to strengthen our contribution to the North Atlantic Alliance on which our defences are based. They will immediately restore and thereafter maintain the pay of servicemen at the levels of their civilian counterparts. They will maintain the effectiveness of Britain's nuclear deterrent. At the same time they will work for greater stability in East/West relations.

They welcome the fact that progress is being made towards real measures of arms control and intend to play their part in this work.

My Government affirm their strong commitment to the European Community. They intend to play

[1] *Hansard, (HL),* 15.5.79, cols 1-9.

[2] Instead of ending in the autumn of 1979 the new session of Parliament will continue until the following autumn in order to allow legislation to be completed.

a full and constructive part in its further development and enlargement, and in the co-ordination of the foreign policies of member States. They will seek to make significant improvements in the operation of the Common Agricultural Policy in the interests both of the United Kingdom and of the Community as a whole, and they will work for an agreement on a common fisheries policy which takes account of the need to conserve stocks and the interests of our fishermen. They will press for a fairer pattern of budgetary and resource transfers in the European Economic Community. They welcome the development of the European Monetary System and will consider afresh the question of the participation of the United Kingdom in its various aspects.

My Government confirm their commitment to the Commonwealth and the United Nations. They will play an active part in the peaceful and just settlements of disputes between nations. My Ministers will have regard to the need for trade with, and aid to, the developing countries.

Every effort will be made to end the conflict in Rhodesia and to bring about a lasting settlement based on the democratic wishes of the people of that country.

My Government will fully co-operate in endeavours to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East and to bring peace to all the peoples of the region. . . .

My Government will give priority in economic policy to controlling inflation through the pursuit of firm monetary and fiscal policies. By reducing the burden of direct taxation and restricting the claims of the public sector on the nation's resources they will start to restore incentives, encourage efficiency and create a climate in which commerce and industry can flourish. In this way they will lay a secure basis for investment, productivity and increased employment in all parts of the United Kingdom.

My Government intend to achieve a fair balance between the rights and duties of the trade union movement. They will encourage responsible pay bargaining and the wider participation of the great majority of members in the affairs of their unions. Legislation will be brought before you to amend the law on picketing and the closed shop, and to provide for financial aid for postal ballots.

My Government will publish proposals for more effective competition and fair pricing policies.

Proposals will be brought forward to amend the Industry Act 1975 and to restrict the activities of the National Enterprise Board. Other proposals will reduce the extent of nationalised and State ownership and increase competition by providing offers of sale, including opportunities for employees to participate where appropriate.

My Government will stimulate the development of small businesses on which the creation of new jobs so heavily depends. Means will be sought to reduce the administrative burdens which are placed upon them, and they will also benefit from My Government's general policies on taxation, industrial relations and related employment legislation.

Legislation will be introduced to amend company law.

My Ministers will seek to secure that United Kingdom agriculture and the food-processing and distributive industries have an opportunity to compete on fair terms and to make their full contribution to the economy.

In Northern Ireland, My Government will strive to restore peace and security and to promote the social and economic welfare of the Province. They will seek an acceptable way of restoring to the people of Northern Ireland more control over their own affairs.

My Ministers will propose the repeal of the Scotland Act 1978, and all-party discussions will be held about the devolution of power from Westminster. Measures will be introduced to make reforms to criminal procedure and criminal justice in Scotland.

My Ministers will propose the repeal of the Wales Act 1978. They will give active support to the maintenance of the Welsh language and will seek an early start with Welsh broadcasting on the fourth television channel in Wales.

My Government are committed to reinforcing respect for the law in all parts of the United Kingdom. They will give full support to the police service and will take steps to ensure that the law is enforced more effectively. They will support and improve the prison system and look forward to receiving the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into the Prison Services in the United Kingdom. Legislative proposals will be brought forward to strengthen the powers of the courts in England and Wales in relation to young offenders and juveniles.

Members of the House of Commons will be given an opportunity to discuss and amend their procedures, particularly as they relate to their scrutiny of the work of Government.

My Government will introduce measures on housing which will include provisions for local authority and new town tenants to have the right to buy their homes, a tenants' charter for those who are local authority, new town and housing association tenants, and provisions to encourage short-term private lettings.

Legislation will be introduced to promote greater efficency in local government, including regulation of the activities of local authority direct labour organisations.

The quality of education will be maintained and improved. Legislation will be introduced to remove the compulsion on local authorities in England and Wales to reorganise their schools on comprehensive lines; and their freedom to take up places at independent schools will be restored. Legislation will be introduced to ensure that parents' wishes are taken into account in the choice of schools for their children and that there is a local appeals system; it will also make provision for assistance to less well off parents whose children would benefit from attendance at certain non-maintained schools.

My Government will continue to support the arts and will bring forward proposals to safeguard our national heritage of historic buildings and artistic treasures.

Pensions, war pensions and other social security benefits will be increased in November and

legislation will be introduced to provide for the payment of a Christmas bonus to pensioners. Ways will be sought to simplify the operations of the social security system.

My Ministers will work to improve the use of resources in the National Health Service and to simplify its administration. A Bill will be introduced to facilitate the wider use of private medical care.

Measures will be introduced to amend the law on nationality and to make changes in the control of immigration.

Proposals will be brought before you for the future of broadcasting. A Bill will be introduced to extend the life of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which will be given responsibility (subject to strict safeguards) for the fourth television channel.

A measure will be introduced to replace the provisions of section 2 of the Official Secrets Act 1911 with provisions appropriate to the present time.

A Bill will be brought forward to amend the law of contempt of court.

My Ministers will take steps to improve the quality of the administration of justice and to promote reform of the general law.

Other measures will be laid before you. . . .

Recent Legislation

The public Acts of Parliament passed during March and up to 4 April when Parliament rose before the dissolution are listed below. Two Acts were introduced by private members and are indicated by an asterisk.

Administration of Justice (Emergency Provisions) Scotland Act 1979. Provides for emergency arrangements for the administration of justice in Scotland by extending certain legal time limits, enabling criminal proceedings to continue, and allowing courts to extend their range of business. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Agricultural Statistics Act 1979. Consolidates legislation relating to agricultural statistics. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Consolidates, modifies and extends previous provisions relating to ancient monuments. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Appropriation Act 1979. Prescribes how expenditure is to be appropriated in order to finance specified public services. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Arbitration Act 1979. Provides a new procedure for judicial review of arbitration awards. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Banking Act 1979. Requires all deposit-taking businesses which are not specifically excluded to obtain authorisation from the Bank of England and makes them subject to its continuing supervision. Authorisation will take the form either of recognition as a bank or of a licence to take deposits (see p 326, 1978). Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Capital Gains Tax Act 1979. Consolidates Part III of the Finance Act 1965 with related provisions in that Act and subsequent Acts. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Carriage by Air and Road Act 1979. Gives effect to protocols adopted at Montreal in 1975 which amended international conventions dealing with carriers' liability for passengers and cargo. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

**Confirmation to Small Estates (Scotland) Act 1979.* Raises the value of an estate which may be claimed by dependants by means of a long-estabished simple procedure. Royal Assent: 29.3.79.

Consolidated Fund Act 1979. Gives parliamentary authority for sums to be issued out of the Consolidated Fund to meet the Government's expenditure requirements. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Credit Unions Act 1979. Provides a statutory framework for credit unions, together with a system for their registration and supervision (see p 326, 1978). Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

**Criminal Evidence Act 1979.* Makes a minor amendment to the Criminal Evidence Act 1898 by rendering a defendant who gives evidence against someone charged in the same proceedings liable to cross-examination about his character and previous convictions. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Crown Agents Act 1979 (see p 48). Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Electricity (Scotland) Act 1979. Consolidates certain legislation relating to the North of Scotland Hydro-Electric Board and the South of Scotland Electricity Board and to functions of the Secretary of State for Scotland concerning the generation and distribution of electricity. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Estate Agents Act 1979. Protects house buyers against malpractices by regulating the activities of estate agents and others engaged in the conveyancing of domestic property. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Exchange Equalisation Account Act 1979. Consolidates legislation relating to the Exchange Equalisation Account. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Finance Act 1979 (see p 129). Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Forestry Act 1979. Redefines the power of the Forestry Commissioners to make grants and loans and provides for the metrication of laws relating to forestry. Royal Assent: 29.3.79.

House of Commons (Redistribution of Seats) Act 1979 (see p 3). Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Independent Broadcasting Authority Act 1979. Enables the Independent Broadcasting Authority to incur expenditure in equipping itself to transmit broadcasts on the proposed fourth television channel. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Industry Act 1979 (see p 38). Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

International Monetary Fund Act 1979. Consolidates legislation relating to the International Monetary Fund and repeals the European Monetary Agreement Act 1959 and entries relating to it in the National Loans Act 1968. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Land Registration (Scotland) Act 1979. Provides for the setting up of a Land Register for Scotland (corresponding to the system already partially in operation in England and Wales) to replace the existing Register of Sasines. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Leasehold Reform Act 1979. Provides further protection for a tenant in possession claiming to acquire a freehold under the Leasehold Reform Act 1967, against artificial inflation of prices. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Legal Aid Act 1979. Simplifies the administration of civil legal aid and makes it easier for people to obtain civil legal representation. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Merchant Shipping Act 1979. Revises the legislation on a number of aspects of merchant shipping, including health and safety, pilotage, the carriage of passengers and luggage, and the prevention of pollution, and provides for the ratification of several international conventions. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Act 1979. Establishes a central council for nursing, midwifery and health visiting in place of the existing separate bodies responsible for the education, training and regulation of these professions. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Pneumoconiosis Etc. (Workers' Compensation) Act 1979. Makes provision for lump sum payments to be made to or in respect of persons disabled by pneumoconiosis, byssinosis or diffuse mesothelioma. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Prosecution of Offences Act 1979. Consolidates provisions concerning the Director of Public Prosecutions for the institution of criminal proceedings in England and Wales and repeals certain obsolete enactments relating to prosecutions by the Director. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Public Health Laboratory Service Act 1979. Extends the scope of the service provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service Board to enable it to assume management of the Microbiological Research Establishment. Royal Assent: 29.3.79.

Public Lending Right Act 1979 (see p 439, 1978). Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Representation of the People Act 1979. Enables polling to take place on the same day at a general election and district council elections in England and Wales and provides for the postponement of certain parish and community council elections. Royal Assent: 4.4.79.

Social Security Act 1979. Makes a number of changes in the law relating to social security including the extension of the upper age limit for mobility allowance, changes in attendance allowance, improvements in appeal procedures and changes relating to the new pension scheme. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Vaccine Damage Payments Act 1979. Provides for payments from public funds to be made to persons severely disabled as a result of vaccination against certain diseases or of contact with a person who has been vaccinated. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Wages Councils Act 1979. Consolidates legislation relating to wage councils and statutory joint industrial councils. Royal Assent: 22.3.79.

Weights and Measures Act 1979. Legalises the system of average, as opposed to minimum, contents; clarifies the law on packages of fixed weight; amends the Weights and Measures Act 1963 on the indication of quantities. Royal Assent: 4.4.79

When Parliament rose on 4 April a number of Bills had failed to complete all their legislative stages. They included the following which have been described in *Survey of Current Affairs:* Companies Bill (pp 436-7, 1978); Education Bill (p 13); and the Road Traffic (Seat Belts) Bill (p 106).

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND DEFENCE

Rhodesia

In April, in elections arranged by the 'transitional government' to introduce majority rule in Rhodesia, the United African National Council, led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, secured 51 seats in the new 100-seat House of Assembly. The British Government's reaction to the election result was given in the House of Commons by the Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, on 15 May.

Elections

Following the transitional government's announcement in November 1978 of a timetable leading to majority rule (see p 423, 1978), the draft of a new constitution was published in Salisbury on 2 January. On 30 January, this was approved in a referendum of the white electorate by 57,269 votes to 9,805; this represented an 85 per cent 'yes' vote on a 71·5 per cent poll. After the referendum, legislation introducing the new constitution was passed by the then white-controlled Rhodesian Parliament. Legislation was also passed making provision for universal suffrage elections.

The constitution provides among other things for a largely elected House of Assembly and a Senate. Of the 100 seats in the House of Assembly, 72 are reserved for blacks and 28 for whites. The black members are elected through universal suffrage by a common voters roll of all races and 20 of the white members by a roll of white, coloured and Asian voters; the other eight white members are chosen from 16 candidates by an electoral college. The Senate consists of 10 black senators, 10 white senators and 10 African chiefs, all indirectly elected.

The election for 20 white seats was held on 10 April. The Rhodesian Front won all 20 seats, 16 members being unopposed. The common roll election was held from 17 April to 21 April. Four black parties contested 72 seats in the eight electoral districts; the United African National Council, led by Bishop Muzorewa; the United National Federal Party, led by Chief Kayisa Ndiweni; the Zimbabwe African National Union-Sithole, led by the Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole, and the Zimbabwe United People's Organisation, led by Chief Jeremiah Chirau. A fifth party, the National Democratic Union, fought the election in only one of the eight districts. The internal wings of the parties based outside Rhodesia (the Zimbabwe African People's Union, led by Mr Joshua Nkomo and the Zimbabwe African National Union, led by Mr Robert Mugabe) had been banned from political activity since September 1978 (see p 348, 1978) and took no part in the election. The electoral system for the common roll election is based upon a modified party list system under which the number of seats won is related to the proportion of votes cast; there were separate party lists in each of the eight electoral districts and not a national party list.

It is estimated that 64 per cent of the electorate voted in the common roll election and the votes cast, as announced on Salisbury Radio, were as follows:

United African National Council (UANC)	1,212,639
Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU-Sithole)	262,928
United National Federal Party (UNFP)	194,446
Zimbabwe United People's Organisation	114,570
National Democratic Union	18,175

As a result of the elections, the elected members of the Assembly comprise 51 for the UANC, 12 for ZANU-Sithole, 9 for the UNFP and 20 for the Rhodesian Front; the remaining eight seats reserved for whites were chosen in May by an electoral college of white and black elected Assembly members from a list of 16 candidates submitted by the Rhodesian Front.

After the announcement of the election results the Reverend Sithole issued a statement calling for a commission of inquiry to investigate 'gross irregularities' in the election and said that his party would not take up its seats in the Assembly.

British Views

During the debate on the Queen's speech (see p 118) the Prime Minister told the House of Commons on 15 May (*Hansard*, cols 86–7) that the Government welcomed the major change that had taken place in Rhodesia as a result of the recent elections and the emergence of an African majority Government. She said that the British Government's objective was to build on that change 'to achieve a return to legality in conditions that secure wide international recognition', and pointed out that many people would need to be consulted, including the United States Government, and Britain's partners in the European Community and in the Commonwealth. The Prime Minister also

said that a senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office official had been sent to Salisbury for discussions with Bishop Muzorewa, and that she was expecting to receive shortly a report by a group of observers of the Rhodesian elections led by Lord Boyd[1] and sent by the Conservative Party to monitor them. Mrs Thatcher concluded by saying that 'we must and will recognise the realities of the present situation in Rhodesia. We must and will take into account the wider international implications.'

Security Council Resolution

At a meeting on 30 April the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution (by 12 votes to nil with Britain, France and the United States abstaining) which condemned the elections as aiming to retain and extend a racist minority rule and to prevent the accession of Zimbabwe to independence and genuine majority rule. The resolution also reaffirmed that the 'so-called elections' and their results were null and void, and the Security Council reiterated its call to all states not to accord recognition to any representative or organ established as a result of them and to observe mandatory sanctions.

Shorter Notes

UGANDA

The British Government recognised the new Ugandan Government of President Yusufu Lule on 15 April and has re-established diplomatic relations with Uganda with the appointment of an Acting High Commissioner. Diplomatic relations were broken off in July 1976 because measures taken by President Idi Amin's Government had made it impossible for the High Commission in Kampala to discharge its duties (see pp 321-2, 1976).

President Lule's Government was formally sworn in on 13 April, two days after the fall of Kampala to combined Tanzanian and Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF) forces. The fighting had begun in October 1978 when Ugandan forces invaded Tanzania. By early 1979 these forces had been repulsed and Tanzanian and Ugandan exile forces had entered Uganda. In March the exile groups established the broadly based UNLF with Professor Yusufu Lule, a former Assistant Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, as its chairman.

In response to a request for immediate help by the new Ugandan Government, Britain agreed on 26 April to provide a grant of £1 million to help rehabilitate health and construction services, transport, power and communications systems, and also for the resettlement of refugees. At the same time it was announced that a more substantial British aid programme would be likely to follow when the Ugandan Government had determined its longer-term plans for the country's development.

[1]Formerly Mr Alan Lennox-Boyd, Secretary of State for the Colonies from 1954 to 1959.

ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Prestel

Prestel, the Post Office's viewdata system, was made publicly available in the London area on 27 March. A Post Office invention, it employs the telephone network to enable the user to call up information stored in an extensive computerised data bank and have it displayed on the screen of a television set. Designed to be rapid, inexpensive and simple to operate, it is the first system in the world to give the public access to computerised information.

Prestel was devised in the Post Office's Research Centre at the beginning of the 1970s. The idea of using the television set as a computer terminal through a telephone link was the key innovation. Following a test service (see pp 138-9, 1978) the Post Office has now made Prestel available to the public in London. Later in 1979 it will be made available to users in Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh and it is intended that over the next few years the system should be expanded to cover the whole of Britain. The Post Office is determined that its lead in this technology be fully exploited and plans to invest £100 million in Prestel over the next five years. It is hoped that by the end of that period there will be at least 1 million subscribers in Britain. The Post Office's ultimate aim is that Prestel should become international, providing a vast store of information for many countries.

Facilities

The information already available to the Prestel user is wide-ranging. Provided by numerous organisations, it includes news summaries, weather reports, business information such as company reports and share prices, guides to entertainment, restaurants and holidays, sporting information, train, ship and airline timetables, careers and consumer advice, and material provided by government departments, including economic and other statistics. Much of the data is updated daily, and some of it, such as racing results, from minute to minute. Many new kinds of material are planned for addition to the store.

The information is presented on the television screen on numbered pages known as frames. It is mostly in the form of printed wording but simple graphic displays can also be shown. The screen can accommodate 24 lines and 40 columns of characters on each frame. Two lines are reserved by the Post Office: the top line indicates the source of the information, the frame number, and the cost of the frame to the user, while the bottom line is used for instructions from the computer to the user. A total of 880 characters is therefore available on each frame, and they can be displayed in any one, or any combination, of seven colours against a dark background.

There are currently over 150,000 frames of information available and more are being added at the rate of 10,000 a month. At the moment the system is designed to store up to 250,000 frames, but, in principle, it can be indefinitely extended. Access to some frames is restricted because they are allocated to Closed User Groups, the members of which pay a special fee to the organisations providing the information; such frames might, for example, contain detailed business information.

Among current developments in the use of Prestel are those in which the user not only receives information but transmits it himself. It is already possible to play games and quizzes on Prestel. Other developments include transactions between users and information providers. Through a 'response' frame, for example, the user can already purchase goods advertised on Prestel by entering a credit card number. Other possible developments include the addition of devices to enable the user to record Prestel information electronically for his own use, or to have it reproduced on paper as a 'print-out'.

Operation

In order to bring the information to the screen, the user requires a specially modified television set which can be connected to the telephone system, and a remote control device, resembling a pocket calculator, known as a keypad. By pressing numbered buttons on the keypad, the user can call up the frame with the corresponding number. He can either instruct the computer to provide a series of index frames to guide him to the information required, or, if he knows the number of the frame he wants, he can press the appropriate buttons on the keypad to obtain it directly. Printed directories are available to help the user save time in obtaining information.

The longest waiting time for any frame is no more than two seconds. Each frame unfolds line by line starting at the top of the screen, taking approximately four seconds to appear completely.

Costs

The Prestel user usually pays three separate charges each time he operates it to obtain information. First there is a charge of 3p per minute during the day and 1p in the evening and at weekends for the use of Prestel; then there is the cost of a local telephone call for the period of the connection (a network of computers is to be installed throughout Britain so that access to them can be made through local telephone calls); and finally there is the cost of the information itself, which is charged at a rate per frame that varies according to the nature of the information. Some frames, presenting advertisements or government information, are free to the user. If users wish to know the costs that they are incurring, Prestel will give them an up-to-date statement of account on the screen in advance of the printed quarterly statement that they will receive.

At the moment Prestel sets are considerably more expensive than standard television sets but it is expected that as they are mass produced costs will fall.

Information Providers

Having solved the initial technical problems associated with Prestel, the Post Office invited other organisations to supply the information to be stored in the data bank. Known as Information Providers (IPs) these organisations put the data into the computers themselves, relieving the Post Office of the need to process the information. Safeguards within the system ensure that each IP retains control over its own data and that no outside agency can alter or tamper with it. Editorial responsibility for the material is shared by the IPs and the Post Office. There are currently some 150 IPs.

The costs to IPs fall into two categories. Class 'A' providers pay a £4,000 service charge and £4 a frame for a one-year contract; or £3,000 per annum plus £3 a frame for a three-year contract; or £2,400 per annum plus £2·40 a frame for a five-year contract. The class 'B' tariff is a reduced rate designed for providers of information that is relatively infrequently used (encyclopaedia-type information, for example). The Post Office intends to set up a data warehouse for 'B' category IPs, charging £1,000 plus £1 a frame each year, with an additional charge of 0·5p a frame each time the frame is requested by a user.

Overseas Promotion

The Post Office has sold its viewdata expertise – in a 'pilot trial' version – to the Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland, and is currently engaged in negotiations with many other countries. In the United States, marketing is being carried out for the Post Office exclusively by Insac Data Systems Ltd, a company set up by the National Enterprise Board to market British computing systems and equipment abroad (see p 125, 1977). The Post Office also intends to set up a world-wide network of agents to promote and sell an International Prestel service, with access to data banks in Britain. As a first step a detailed study for this venture has been commissioned, which it is hoped will be completed by the end of June 1979. Once the strategy is approved, capital will be allocated for the major sales drive envisaged.

Industrial Awards

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology and the Design Council Awards for 1979 were announced recently.

QUEEN'S AWARDS

The Queen's Awards for Export and Technology, published on 21 April, are in two categories: the Queen's Award for Export Achievement, and the Queen's Award for Technological Achievement. The awards, formerly known as the Queen's Award to Industry (see pp 443-4, 1975), are made on the advice of a committee comprising representatives of industry and commerce, including the trade unions, and civil servants. They were instituted in 1965 and are designed to recognise and encourage outstanding achievements in these fields.

There are 121 awards this year, comprising 102 for export achievement and 19 for technological achievement, three fewer than for 1978. The number of applications received for awards, was, at 1,640, somewhat lower than the 1978 record of 1,840. The recipients represent a wide spread of industrial and commercial activity and size of company, and include firms from every region of Britain. The list includes exporters of clothing and textiles, pharmaceuticals, books, machinery, metals, process plant, food manufactures, aircraft, aero-engines, guided weapons and avionics equipment, telecommunications and other electronic equipment, and mechanical handling equipment; consultant engineers and construction firms; insurance brokers; and firms providing aircraft support and maintenance services. For technological innovation, BDH Chemicals, the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment and the University of Hull gained awards jointly for their work on biphenyl liquid crystals (see p 126), while Decca Radar won its fourth technology award, on this occasion for the development of its Clearscan marine radar display. Other technology awards go to a computer development, oil refining processes, machining centres, pharmaceuticals, and measuring techniques.

The following contains details of some of the companies and products which received awards.

Export Achievement

Among companies in the aerospace industry receiving awards for export achievement are Airwork Services, which provides support and maintenance services, including specialist training, for overseas air forces, and exports aircraft and vehicle spare parts and training aids; and British Midland Airways, which leases aircraft complete with crews, ground handling and technical support, and provides marketing and training services

where required. British Aerospace won an award for exports of guided weapon systems and components, especially Swingfire and Rapier, as did Short Brothers, which makes aircraft, missile systems, aircraft components, aero-engine pods and armoured patrol cars. Plessey Radar also won an award for having trebled its exports in the last three years; 60 per cent of its output goes to overseas markets. Rolls-Royce, winner of five previous awards for export achievement, won an award for its exports of aero-engines.

In the engineering industry, awards have been made to: Agemaspark, which designs and manufactures spark erosion machines and generators; Bonas Machine (needle looms and automatic diamond polishing machines), which exports to over 50 countries world-wide; Borg-Warner (air-conditioning and refrigeration equipment); Caterpillar Tractor (fork-lift trucks); Church and Bramhall (steel fencing systems), which has doubled its turnover in each of the last three years; Colchester Lathe (centre lathes), exporter to over 100 countries and winner of four previous awards; Cummins Engine (diesel engines); Froude Engineering (dynamometers and associated engine test equipment); Giltspur Precision Industries (industrial sewing machines); Hughes International (buses and coaches); IMI Norgren (compressed-air processing and associated equipment); JCB Sales (construction and materials-handling equipment), exporter to over 100 countries and winner of a previous award; Lancy (effluent treatment plant); MK Electric (plugs, sockets and wiring accessories), which has increased its exports almost six times in the last five years; Mirrlees Blackstone (industrial and marine diesel engines and horizontal oil engines); Renishaw Electrical (probes for co-ordinate measuring machines and machine tools), which exports 85 per cent of its output; Martin Roberts (commercial and industrial door products); Rose Forgrove, a subsidiary of Baker Perkins (automatic packaging machinery), which exports nearly 70 per cent of its output to some 90 countries; Stothert and Pitt, exporter worldwide of rail-mounted dockside and shipyard cranes, shiplifts, container spreader beams and winches, road rollers and other construction equipment, pumps and ink and paint-making machinery; Trunk Trailer (10- to 100-ton trailers); United Scientific Holdings (optical, electronic and precision mechanical equipment for use by defence forces); VG Instruments, exporter worldwide of scientific instruments, in particular electron spectrometers, electron microscopes and mass spectrometers; Wallace Murray (turbochargers); Ward Brothers (prefabricated steel-framed buildings); Woden Transformer, a subsidiary of Babcock and Wilcox (power transformers and low-voltage distribution switchgear); and others.

Other industries represented are: *Metals* – Aluminium Wire and Cable; Anglo Blackwells (aluminium and other alloys); and GKN Kent Alloys (passenger car wheels). *Electronics* – Barcrest (microprocessor-based gaming and amusement machines); Crosfield Electronics, winner of two previous export awards (advanced equipment for processing and control in the graphic arts and printing industries); Marconi Space and Defence Systems (artillery fire control equipment and Blindfire radar for Rapier missiles); and Soundcraft Electronics (sound-mixing consoles and related equipment). *Textiles and Clothing* – Aquascutum (high-quality clothing), exporter to 42 countries and winner of three previous awards; Burberrys, a subsidiary of Great Universal Stores (weatherproof clothing and overcoats), winner of three previous awards; Dawson International (semi-processed textile raw materials, woollen yarns, fully-fashioned knitwear and women's tailored skirts); Haddow Aird and Crerar (lace, curtains, bedspreads and tablecloths), exporter to more than 20 countries world-wide; William Hollins, a subsidiary of Carrington Viyella (blended wool and cotton flannel fabrics); Kinloch Anderson (Scottish tartans and tweeds); Mothercare (clothing for expectant mothers and children); Mulberry Company (Design) (leather goods, and tweed and leather jackets); Alan Paine (fully-fashioned knitted outerwear); and Tavern Furnishing. *Chemicals and Synthetics* – Avalon Chemicals (synthetic resin and adhesives); Biozyme Laboratories (enzymes and related biochemicals); Camvac Holdings (plastic films and papers); Nairn Floors (floorcoverings); Portex (plastic catheters and tubes); Silver Paint and Lacquer; Smith, Kline and French (ethical, proprietary and animal health medicines), exporters to some 85 countries; and Wellcome (medical and veterinary preparations and other fine chemicals). *Food and Drink* – Baxters Scottish Game; James Buchanan (Scotch whisky), exporter to some 170 countries world-wide; Lipton Export (tea blending); MacDonald Greenlees, a subsidiary of the Distillers Company (Scotch whisky); Pearce Duff (jellies, custard and baking powders), exporter to more than 70 countries; Reckitt and Colman (food, wine, household products and toiletries); Solent Canners (soft drinks); and West Country Table Rabbits. *Consultant Engineering and Construction* – Badger Company; Bertlin and Partners; British Smelter Constructions; Capper-Neill; Catalytic International; Davy International (Oil and Chemicals); Posford Pavry and Partners; Preece Cardew and Rider; Bernard Sunley; and Watermeyer, Legge, Piesold and Uhlmann. *Other export award winners* include two insurance brokers (Victory Insurance and Sedgwick Forbes Bland Payne); a firm of management consultants (Coopers and Lybrand Associates); and two book publishers (Longman Group and Wolfe Medical Publications).

Technological Achievement

Among the companies which received an award for technological achievement are BDH Chemicals, which gained the award jointly with the solid state physics and devices division of the Royal Signals and Radar Establishment (RSRE) and the department of chemistry, University of Hull, for their work in research, development and large-scale commercial production of biphenyl liquid crystals; the company is now taking an estimated 50 per cent of the world market for these crystals. Around 1970 the RSRE foresaw that liquid-crystal devices could become an important component in consumer and professional electronic products, but that development would be hindered without

synthesis of a stable liquid-crystal material. Subsequent efforts by the three recipients of the award have led to the development of a series of biphenyl mixtures, which have gained for Britain the major share of this rapidly expanding market. Among the other technology awards were: Decca Radar, for its Clearscan marine radar clarification technique, the company's fourth award for technological achievement; GEC Computers, for the development of computers to control multi-interactive processes; ICI Pharmaceuticals, for the development of cloprostenol, which allows significant improvements in the productivity of livestock; Kearney and Trecker Marwin, a subsidiary of Vickers, for the development of a series of machining centres which put together standardised sub-assemblies in optimum configurations to suit different requirements; RSRE (see above) electronic materials division, for the development of equipment and techniques for crystal growth; Moore and Wright (Sheffield) and Patscentre International (a division of PA Management Consultants) for development of the Micro 2000 electronic digital micrometer; the Mining Research and Development Establishment of the National Coal Board for its development of techniques for the measurement of harmful respirable dust, the second technology award gained by the establishment; Pfizer Ltd, for the development of oxamniquine, a drug which acts specifically against tropical diseases caused by the worm parasite *Schistosoma mansoni*; Racal Communications, for the development of high-frequency communications receivers, the company's second technology award; Rothwell Plant Breeders, a subsidiary of Shell Petroleum, for the development of an industrial system for breeding and evaluation of spring barley varieties; and Tate and Lyle Engineering, for developing a process for removing impurities in sugar processing.

DESIGN COUNCIL

The Design Council has made a total of 27 awards to British manufacturers under its 1979 awards scheme. Set up in 1944 to promote higher standards of design in British industry (and known until 1972 as the Council for Industrial Design), the Council instituted its awards for engineering and consumer goods in 1967 and those for medical equipment and motor industry products in 1975.

The awards for medical equipment were announced on 27 February, the motor industry awards on 6 April, those for consumer goods on 26 April, and those for engineering products and engineering components on 1 May.

Medical Equipment

There were four awards for medical equipment, all of which exemplified the application of known engineering principles and well-tried manufacturing techniques to meet specific requirements. Mechanical Precision Engineering Co Ltd was given an award for its Adjusaloc support arm because it was designed to provide, in a very practical way, a complete and safe system from which to suspend life support hoses to ensure maximum patient comfort following a tracheotomy or other treatment requiring intensive care. Adjusaloc has been tried and proved in hospitals during the past two and a half years. Corning Medical won an award for its 460 automated flame photometer which analyses samples and gives results which are vital to the diagnosis of different diseases and body conditions. Components, formerly available only as accessories to standard photometers, have been assembled into a single automated unit that is simple to use and requires little maintenance. A pocket diagnostic set, containing a miniature ophthalmoscope, otoscope, torch attachment and accessories, and made by Keeler Optical Products, won an award for providing, in one neat package, an instrument for examining the ear, nose and throat and a separate instrument for examining the eye. Since its introduction in 1976, the set has been widely accepted by general practitioners and hospital doctors. Finally, The Radiochemical Centre Ltd won an award for its Technetium-99m sterile generator, which provides a convenient and reliable system for preparing radiopharmaceuticals for immediate oral or intravenous administration to patients. The judges also considered that the generator represented a significant advance in improving operator safety when preparing radiopharmaceuticals.

Engineering

Of the 12 engineering awards, six were for engineering products and six for engineering components. The awards for engineering products include: a sheet pile threader which improves the safety of piling operations on construction sites (W. A. Dawson Ltd) by enabling them to be conducted at ground level; a high-speed photo typesetter, Monotype International's Lasercomp System 3000, for printing newspapers and periodicals, the only one in the world to use a laser to construct the characters of a word in true typographical form and with excellent clarity at speeds of up to 1,000 newspaper lines a minute (it can also be programmed to print different languages on the same page at the same time); the Cintel Mark III 'flying spot' telecine (Rank Cintel Ltd) which converts cine film into a colour television signal ready for transmission – this equipment has gained an international reputation for producing the best quality television pictures possible from film, achieved by 'flying' a spot of light across the film as it is moved at a steady speed by a special form of film drive which does not rely on the perforations at the end of the film; the Series 5 Sea Truck, a general-purpose craft for the fast movement of passengers or freight across tidal estuaries or shallow rivers (Rotork Marine Ltd), the versatility of which has been proved by its use as a survey vessel, diving tender, medical auxiliary craft and port authority tender (the buoyancy built into the glass fibre hull exceeds the maximum displacement, making the craft virtually unsinkable even when badly holed); digital voltmeters (Solartron Electronic Group); and an all-purpose collator of single or folded sheets of printed paper into books or sets for distribution (Watkiss Automation), capable of collating dif-

ferent thicknesses, finishes and sizes of paper simultaneously and without the need for constant adjustment. The awards for engineering components include: a compact source iodide (CSI) sealed beam lamp (Thorn Lighting), small enough to be placed at the focus within a sealed beam optical enclosure of only 205 mm (8·1 inches) diameter and ideal for mounting in groups on floodlighting towers; the Spherosyn linear displacement transducer (Newall Electronics) which measures the linear displacement between two parts of a machine – translating, electronically, variations in the magnetic field to provide either a digital display of a movement or to feed position information into a control system which may be part of a numerically controlled machine tool; the Dowval hydraulic system (Dowty Mining Equipment) used for the control of powered roof supports that are essential in the longwall mining of coal underground – the reliability of the system has been proved in practice which, together with its ease of maintenance at the coal face, helps to minimise losses in production; the Safe-T live electricity supply jointing ring conductor (GEC-Henley), which fits a wide range of cable types and diameters enabling service connections to be made safely, quickly and without interruption to existing electrical services; the AC2 air-cooled diesel engine (Petters Ltd) of which the compact size, low weight and abnormally wide speed range have extended the use of diesel power in industrial, agricultural, marine, generator and vehicle refrigeration applications; and a directed lubrication thrust bearing (Glacier Metal), the company's second technology award, designed to carry thrust loads with minimum power loss in high-speed rotating machines such as gas turbines used to generate electricity (70 per cent are exported).

Motor Industry

Six motor industry products were given awards for good engineering practice, attention to detail and simplicity of design. Boally Ltd gained an award for its Linkliner aluminium vehicle body designed to improve the efficiency of deliveries to shops. Complete side and rear access to the inside of the vehicle body makes it possible for loading to be effected in about 15 minutes. It is the second design by the company to win an award. Cosworth Engineering Ltd won an award for the DFV formula 1 racing engine. Cars using it have won 119 Grand Prix races out of a maximum possible of 163 during the last 11 years. Unlike most engines developed by overseas racing car manufacturers, the DFV engine is designed to be used on many different types of chassis. Cosworth has built up a business which has supplied 325 power units and related spares to formula 1 teams of all nationalities. Laycock Engineering Ltd has received an award for its computerised Motobalance 5000 off-the-vehicle wheel balancer. The operator dials in two measurements and then the complete operation is carried out automatically. About 90 per cent of production goes overseas and a licensing arrangement has been agreed for manufacture in Japan. A fuel tank drainer which ensures safety when emptying petrol tanks of cars prior to the start of repair work has won an award for Britax (Dynasafe) Ltd. It incorporates an anti-flash device and is supplied with earthing cables. The standard panel concept which allows a wide variety of commercial vehicle cabs to be made to a large extent from common parts has won an award for Motor Panels (Coventry) Ltd. About 70 per cent of a cab shell can be produced using the firm's panels. The system reduces the investment required by commercial vehicle manufacturers, and some 40 per cent of British manufacturers employ the standard panel concept for part of their cabs. Quinton Hazell Automotive Ltd gained an award for an 'anti-under-run' bumper for road haulage trailers, designed to lessen the risk for persons in a car crashing into the rear of the trailer. Developed to replace the conventional rigid under-run protection bar, the bumper hydraulically absorbs the force of an impact and afterwards returns to its normal position. Since appearing on the market just over a year ago, the device has attracted the attention of commercial vehicle manufacturers in Europe and the United States. The Design Council also gave commendations for two prototype designs: a versatile new trailer for use with the 'hatch-back' type of small car (U-Tow Trailers); and a compact country bus incorporating a number of features to improve passenger comfort (Vauxhall Motors in association with Marshall of Cambridge).

Consumer and Contract Goods

The five products receiving awards in the consumer and contract goods category were all considered to be excellent examples of commercially viable designs. J. M. Henshaw (Marine) Ltd won an award for an unusual inflatable sailing dinghy which can be stowed away when deflated, in the boot of an average family car. Safety features include separate hull tubes, with inner tubes for each. Four hand-made cylindrical glasses have won an award for the Isle of Wight Studio Glass Company Ltd, for the unique quality of the silver and gold leaf decoration. A new and imaginative technique permits a wide variety of semi-random colours and patterns. Eleven products selected from one of the world's most comprehensive ranges of photographic darkroom equipment have won a third design award for Paterson Products Ltd. The company exports some 70 per cent of its output to about 104 overseas countries. Ferodo Ltd has created a new safety flooring to replace the traditional wooden duckboard. It takes the form of yellow interlocking polypropylene tiles, 300 mm (1 foot) square, with friction material inset to overcome the problems of movement. They can be easily assembled by unskilled labour. Tansator Ltd won an award for a simple but versatile retractable tape barrier, which is in use at seven airports in Britain. It consists of free-standing posts, each of which has a capsule at the top containing a belt of self-reeling webbing 2·5 m (about 8 feet) long. The free end of the belt can be plugged quite simply into a curved clip on the next post. Its advantage over conventional barriers is that the length between barriers can be varied without loss of tension, so that the belt stays at a constant height.

Shorter Notes

NATIONAL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 1978

Britain's output of goods and services (gross domestic product – GDP) was valued at £140,740 million in 1978, a rise in real terms of about 3 per cent over 1977. Real national disposable income, which takes into account net property income from abroad and the effects of changes in the terms of trade, rose by nearly 4 per cent over the same period, a little faster than GDP and largely reflecting the fact that export prices rose more than import prices between the two years. A rise in output of 2 per cent in real terms between the first and second quarters resulted from substantial increases in the output of the four main industrial production sectors – mining and quarrying (which includes North Sea oil production), manufacturing, construction, and gas, electricity and water. After the second quarter, however, mining and quarrying was the only one of these sectors in which output continued to rise, increasing by 24 per cent over the year. Exploration for, and the extraction of, petroleum and natural gas accounted for one-quarter of the growth in domestic output between 1977 and 1978. Agricultural and horticultural output increased by 4·5 per cent. The output of service industries rose by 2·5 per cent and included rises of 24 per cent for air transport, 6 per cent for communications, 5 per cent for the distributive trades and 10·5 per cent for the motor trades.

In 1978 total domestic income (income from employment and self-employment, gross trading profits and rent) was more than 12 per cent higher than in 1977 at current prices. The largest component, income from employment, rose by about 13 per cent. As a result of tax changes and rebates during the year (see p 159, 1978), personal disposable income (after deduction of taxes and national insurance contributions) rose by 15·5 per cent (6 per cent in real terms); consumers' expenditure rose by some 14·5 per cent (5·5 per cent in real terms). All components contributed to this rise but there were particular gains in cars and motorcycles (30 per cent), wines and spirits (13·5 per cent) and radio and electrical goods (13 per cent).

After deducting stock appreciation, gross trading profits of industrial and commercial companies rose by some 16 per cent (at current prices) in 1978, from £13,700 million to £15,900 million. Some 14 per cent of the profits in 1978 were attributable to North Sea oil and gas, profits from which rose by more than 30 per cent over the previous year to £2,300 million; the remainder of the profits rose by 14 per cent. Fixed investment was nearly 3 per cent higher in real terms than in 1977 (when it was lower than in any year since 1970). However, gross domestic fixed capital formation fell in the second half of the year.

This summary is based on revised figures of national income and expenditure in the fourth quarter and year 1978, together with estimates of the sector current or appropriation accounts, fixed capital formation, and the summary capital account published in a Central Statistical Office press notice CSO(79)28, on 30 March. This has replaced information published in earlier years in an annual White Paper, *Preliminary Estimates of National Income and Balance of Payments*. For a discussion of balance of payments figures for 1978 see pp 98-103.

FINANCE ACT 1979

Following the Labour Government's defeat in a vote of confidence in the House of Commons on 28 March (see p 83) and the Prime Minister's subsequent announcement of a general election to be held on 3 May, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Denis Healey, introduced a 'caretaker' Finance Bill on 3 April instead of a normal Budget (*Hansard*, cols 1187-96). The Bill, he said, was designed, 'simply to maintain the ability of the next Government to introduce a Budget of its own choosing by preserving the basic powers of taxation as Parliament has already laid them down'. Some taxes – income tax, corporation tax and advance corporation tax – had to be imposed each year and the first and foremost purpose of the Bill was to renew these annual taxes at the rates in force over the previous 12 months.

The coverage of the Bill, which received Royal Assent on 4 April, followed discussions which the Chancellor and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Joel Barnett, had had with Sir Geoffrey Howe, Opposition spokesman on economic affairs, and his colleagues in the Conservative Party.

The Chancellor said that in renewing the income tax, account had had to be taken of the indexation provisions to be found in the Finance Act 1977 – the so-called Rooker-Wise amendment. These required that, unless the House decided otherwise, the main personal allowances, that is, the single person's allowance and the wife's earned income relief, the married person's allowance, the age allowances and the additional personal allowance which, broadly, is given to single parents, should be revalorised each year in line with the increase in the retail price index over the previous calendar year. The percentage increase required under the latter was 8·9 per cent (for 1978) but because of the rounding adjustments the actual increase in the allowances proposed in the Bill was just over 9 per cent. No changes were to be made, however, in the amounts of tax due under Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) until 1 August 1979 so as to give the next Chancellor time to decide what he wished to propose to the House before pay packets were affected. The increase in allowances would only take effect after the election on 3 May if they remained unchanged by any Budget introduced thereafter.

The Act also provides for the removal of child tax allowances, except for non-resident children and the purely transitional provisions for certain students, to take place simultaneously with the increase of £1 in child benefits for each child (the last of three stages – see p 409, 1976), and for

the continuation for another year of the ceiling on mortgage interest relief at £25,000.

REPAYMENT OF IMF DEBT

With the early repayment, during April, of $1,004 million to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Britain has paid back the equivalent of all its 1976 standby drawings and all the amounts it drew under the four credit tranches. This was in line with the previous Government's plans for the prepayment of external debt set out in a statement by the Chancellor on 3 April. In the statement, Mr Healey said that the policy was to combine some net repayment of debt year by year with new borrowing to lengthen the maturity schedule (see p 72, 1978).

NATIONAL ENTERPRISE BOARD

The National Enterprise Board (NEB) and its companies made a profit before tax of £31 million in 1978, according to the Board's annual report[1] published on 8 May. After taking extraordinary items into account, the group recorded a loss of £41 million. The NEB had interests in 46 companies at the end of 1978 (excluding loans to machine tool companies) representing assets employed of £1,576 million. Turnover of the group was £4,158 million, including exports of £1,346 million. The total number of employees at the end of the year was 278,514, of whom 250,626 were employed in Britain. The rate of return on total capital employed by the NEB and its subsidiaries was 6·4 per cent (11·3 per cent excluding the Board's main subsidiaries, BL and Rolls-Royce). New funds invested directly by the NEB during 1978 amounted to £359 million, bringing total investment since the Board's formation in 1975 to about £600 million. Taking into account investments which the NEB had previously taken over from the Government, the aggregate investment for which the NEB was responsible amounted to £1,250 million at the end of the year.

The trading profit of the NEB's largest subsidiary, BL, was £1·7 million before tax in 1978 compared with £3·2 million in 1977. Several favourable developments are noted in the report, however. The new board of directors of BL, appointed at the end of 1977, had achieved a major reorganisation of the company designed to improve overall management. In addition BL had met its objectives for profit, return on capital and cash flow. Rolls-Royce, the other main subsidiary, had achieved a record figure for sales in 1978, and reported a profit before tax of £11·9 million. Though this was lower than in 1977, it included a charge of £75 million on research and development.

Among other activities of the NEB, the report draws attention to its strategy of sectoral support for British industry, and particularly for microelectronics, where the Board is active through subsidiaries such as INMOS (see pp 262-3, 1978), set up to produce standard micro-electronic components, NEXOS, which has been set up to market advanced electronic office equipment, and INSAC (see p 125, 1977), which promotes British software expertise overseas. The report also mentions the NEB's support for Britain's export performance, and for small businesses.

Developments in 1979 are also covered by the report, taking into account the effects of the Industry Act 1979 (see p 38), which have raised the NEB's commitments against its statutory borrowing limit of £3,000 million to £1,800 million.

[It was announced in the Queen's speech – see p 118 – that the new Government would introduce legislation to amend the Industry Act 1975 – see pp 486-7, 1975 – and restrict the activities of the NEB.]

JUBILEE LINE

The first section of a new underground railway in London, the Jubilee Line, was officially opened by Prince Charles on 30 April and scheduled services began on 1 May. The Jubilee Line, which cost about £87 million, has taken over the Stanmore-Baker Street branch of the Bakerloo Line and then runs for 2·75 miles (4·4 kilometres) through new twin tunnels from Baker Street to Charing Cross via Bond Street and Green Park. It provides a new direct link between the north-western suburbs of London and important business and shopping areas in central London, and is intended to relieve the overcrowded section of the Bakerloo Line between Baker Street and Oxford Circus. Services are operated by a fleet of 33 modern trains, but these are due to be replaced in the 1980s by new trains which will be suitable for automatic operation as used on the Victoria Line (one of the most highly automated and technically advanced underground railways in the world). The Greater London Council has agreed in principle to proceed with the second section of the Jubilee Line from Charing Cross to Fenchurch Street, and has approved proposals for the final section, which would run to Thamesmead in south-east London.

BRITISH RAILWAYS BOARD

For the third successive year the British Railways Board improved upon the financial objective agreed with the Government, according to the Board's annual report and accounts, published on

[1] *National Enterprise Board: Annual Report and Accounts 1978.* Available from Information Department, NEB, 12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DW. £2.

11 April.[1] Turnover (including financial support) rose by £301 million to £1,979 million in 1978 when there was a trading surplus of £58·3 million, compared with £68·4 million in 1977. After interest payments and other items, there was a net surplus of £6·4 million. Financial support payable to the Board in respect of the public service obligation (PSO) for providing rail passenger services amounted to £434 million, £8 million less than the price agreed in advance with the Department of Transport and £56 million less than the upper cash limit for the PSO payment.

Passenger journeys on the railways rose by 3 per cent to 724 million in 1978, covering an estimated 19,100 million miles (30,739 million kilometres), the highest passenger-mileage since 1975. Further improvements to inter-city services were made, notably the introduction of 'Inter-City 125' services using High Speed Trains (HSTs) on the London-Edinburgh route, covering the 393-mile (632-kilometre) journey at an average speed of 81 mph (130 km/h). The number of passengers travelling on the Inter-City 125 services between London and Bristol/Weston-super-Mare and London and south Wales continued to grow, and after two years of HST operation first-class and second-class passenger-mileages were 46 and 37 per cent higher respectively than for the pre-HST services. The rail freight and parcels sector improved its financial results and achieved a small surplus after three years of losses, although freight train traffic, at 170·5 million tonnes, was virtually the same as in 1977.

According to the report, British Rail 'enjoyed increasing success in world export markets' through the manufacturing efforts of British Rail Engineering Ltd which received record export orders, worth nearly £50 million, and through the higher earnings of Transmark, the Board's consultancy subsidiary.

BRITISH TRANSPORT DOCKS BOARD

In spite of the severe difficulties which faced the ports and shipping industries in Britain in 1978 as a result of the stagnation in overseas trade, the British Transport Docks Board (BTDB) continued to operate profitably, according to its annual report and accounts, published on 20 April.[2] The BTDB's total revenue was £119·9 million in 1978 and its operating surplus (after historic cost depreciation) was £29·7 million (compared with £29 million in 1977), which represented a return of 16·9 per cent on capital employed. Although the return remained below the target of 20 per cent by 1980 agreed with the previous Government, the report points out that this target was established when trading conditions were expected to remain much better than they had proved to be. The BTDB's net surplus was £7 million in 1978, slightly less than in the previous year, and all but two of the BTDB's 19 ports produced individual net surpluses. Capital expenditure of £14 million was approved during the year, and the BTDB is planning further investment in its ports of over £80 million in the period 1979 to 1983, which will be financed from the BTDB's resources.

The tonnage handled by the Board's ports rose by 2·3 per cent to 78·9 million tonnes in 1978. Traffic on roll-on/roll-off services and on container services rose by 6 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, and the BTDB handled a record 725,000 freight units on these services in 1978. Traffic in motor cars and some bulk commodities also increased, although lower levels of certain imported raw materials, such as cereals, timber and non-ferrous ores, were handled.

NATIONAL FREIGHT CORPORATION

In its tenth year of operation the publicly owned National Freight Corporation (NFC) achieved a record trading profit, according to its annual report and accounts, published on 25 April.[1] The NFC's gross income was £406·7 million in 1978, £20·1 million more than in the previous year. The major sources of revenue were parcels and small freight (£98·5 million), contract hire (£65·4 million), general haulage (£51·1 million), unit loads (£40·8 million), distribution (£31·6 million) and removals (£23·5 million). Trading profits rose from £12·4 million in 1977 to £20·1 million in 1978 and, after interest and other charges, there was a net profit, the first since 1973, of £0·3 million. All of the NFC's largest operating groups, such as the British Road Services Group and the National Carriers Group, achieved better results than in 1977. The NFC continued to move more of its business 'into specialised services which command better rates and greater security'. The financial reconstruction of the NFC, provided for under the Transport Act 1978, took effect on 4 August 1978 and so had only a limited effect in that year, but will be more important in the future. Among the Act's provisions were a reduction in the capital liability on which the NFC pays annual interest to the Government, and capital expenditure grants of not more than £15 million for National Carriers. In addition, the Act provided for the transfer of the Freightliners subsidiary operating road/rail container services to the British Railways Board (which had previously held a 49 per cent share). As a result, almost all the NFC's assets are now in road transport, distribution and storage. The NFC remains by far the largest freight organisation in Britain, although it accounts for less than 10 per cent of the road haulage market, which is dominated by a large number of small firms.

[1] *British Railways Board. Annual Report and Accounts 1978.* BRB. HMSO, £1·50. ISBN 0 11 982831 6.

[2] *British Transport Docks Board. Report and Accounts 1978.* Available from the BTDB, Melbury House, Melbury Terrace, London NW1 6JY.

[1] *National Freight Corporation. Report and Accounts 1978.* Available from the NFC, Argosy House, 215 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6BD.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

National Dwelling and Housing Survey

Improvements in living conditions in England between 1971 and 1977 are described in a report published in February. They include: a 37 per cent reduction in the number of households sharing a dwelling, a halving in the number without exclusive use of at least one basic amenity (inside WC, fixed bath or shower and piped hot water) and a substantial reduction in overcrowding. The trend towards owner-occupation and renting accommodation from local authorities, and away from the private rented sector, continued. Four-fifths of households were satisfied or very satisfied with their accommodation.

The report of a comprehensive survey[1] of dwelling and housing in England, undertaken in late 1977 and early 1978, describing the major changes since 1971, was published in February. It contains an analysis for each English region, each London borough and certain other areas which were known to be subject to particular stress.

The National Dwelling and Housing Survey was commissioned by the Department of the Environment in 1977 in order to update and expand the information on housing contained in a consultative document[2] of that year (see p 282, 1977), the estimates in which were based on the census of 1971. The consultative document covered England and Wales; the recent survey covers only England but a similar one has been carried out by the Welsh Office and the results are expected shortly. Extensions of the survey have been announced, to obtain more information about the range of housing circumstances and to improve the data used for the distribution of the Rate Support Grant.

ENGLAND

Trends Between 1971 and 1977

At the end of 1977 there were an estimated 17,224,000 dwellings in England of which 729,000 were vacant or second homes. The 16,495,000 occupied dwellings housed 16,824,000 households, 16,296,000 of whom each lived in a separate dwelling and 528,000 of whom lived in 199,000 shared dwellings.

Since 1971, the year of the latest Census of Population, some 1·25 million dwellings have been added to the housing stock and an additional 1 million households have been formed. The main effect of the net increase of 265,000 dwellings over households has been to reduce the level of sharing from 795,000 households to 528,000: the main reduction has been in sharing households containing more than one person for which the number has virtually halved from 365,000 to 187,000. The number of concealed households (married couple families and lone parent families living as part of other persons' households) has also been reduced from 392,000 to 253,000.

The regional distribution of dwellings and households shows that each region had a crude surplus of dwellings compared with households.

Lack of Amenities

The number of households lacking exclusive use of at least one basic amenity fell from 2,753,000 in 1971 to 1,445,000 by the end of 1977, a reduction of 48 per cent. Similar percentage reductions occurred in the numbers of households lacking any one of these amenities.

Many of the households lacking exclusive use of basic amenities had at least shared use of such amenities. For example, of the 961,000 households lacking exclusive use of a fixed bath or shower, 504,000 had shared use of bath or shower, and of the 1,195,000 households lacking exclusive use of a WC inside the building, 454,000 had shared use of this amenity.

The number of households lacking amenities fell considerably faster between 1971 and the end of 1977 than the number sharing amenities: the number of households lacking an inside WC and a fixed bath fell by 59 per cent and 66 per cent respectively, whereas the numbers of households sharing these amenities fell by 13 per cent and 8 per cent respectively.

Density of Occupation

Density of occupation can be measured in several ways. The traditional measure is the number of persons per room and on this basis there was a reduction of 45 per cent in the number of households with more than one person per room. The measure mainly used in the survey is the bedroom standard. This has no statutory force but is widely

[1] *National Dwelling and Housing Survey*. HMSO, £8·50. ISBN 0 11 751382 2.

[2] *Housing Policy: a Consultative Document*. Cmnd 6851. HMSO, £2·50. ISBN 0 10 168510 6.

used as a measure of the adequacy of space; it relates the number of bedrooms to the number, age and sex of the occupants. Details of the way in which the standard is applied are given in the report.

The number of households below the bedroom standard at the end of 1977 is estimated at 829,000, of which 102,000 were two or more bedrooms below the standard. There are no equivalent figures from the 1971 Census of Population but the General Household Survey for 1971 indicated that some 960,000 households in England were then below the bedroom standard. (The report gives a possible explanation for the apparent slower decline in the number of households living below the bedroom standard than that in the number living at over one person per room.)

Tenure

The results of the survey confirm the continued growth in the 1970s of owner-occupancy and tenures from local authorities and new town corporations and the reduction in the number of households renting their accommodation in the private sector. At the end of 1977, 56 per cent of the total stock of dwellings was owner-occupied, 30 per cent was for rent from local authorities or new town corporations, 1 per cent was for rent from housing associations and 13 per cent was for rent from private landlords or provided rent-free: the equivalent percentages in 1971 were 52 per cent, 28 per cent, 1 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.

The Present Position

The survey gives findings on a number of current housing issues, many for the first time. They are: housing tenures, ethnic minorities, density of occupation, use of basic amenities, satisfaction with accommodation and area, households sharing accommodation, concealed households, waiting lists for council houses, age of accommodation, and lowest floor of accommodation.

Housing Tenures

The survey found that most detached and most larger houses were owner-occupied. Of 3 million households living in detached houses, 2·6 million were owner-occupiers; of the 1·6 million houses and flats with four or more bedrooms, 1·3 million were owner-occupied. The most common type of owner-occupied property was a house with three bedrooms and two-thirds of households buying with a mortgage or loan were buying such properties.

Properties rented from local authorities and new town corporations were almost exclusively semi-detached or terraced houses or purpose-built flats or maisonettes, and a larger proportion were designed for small households. Fewer than 170,000 council properties had more than three bedrooms, and some 2·7 million households renting from local authorities consisted of only one or two persons.

Unfurnished and furnished private lettings displayed very different characteristics. Unfurnished lettings were the most diversified; they included all types of houses and flats and contained a wide range of lettings of various sizes. Furnished lettings were mainly parts of houses and contained only one bedroom but there was also a small number of larger detached houses, perhaps let while the owner-occupier was away temporarily.

Properties rented from housing associations were predominantly flats. These were either purpose-built or converted and almost half had only one bedroom.

About 350,000 households in the local authority sector were below the bedroom standard compared with 300,000 owner-occupier households. This was partly because of the small number of lettings from local authorities with more than three bedrooms.

On employment status and socio-economic group of heads of household, the survey found that virtually all owner-occupiers buying with a mortgage or loan were either employed or seeking work. By contrast, over half of heads of household owning outright were wholly retired or housewives, as were over one-third of local authority tenants and households renting unfurnished accommodation in the private sector. Heads of household renting furnished accommodation were predominantly either full-time workers or students.

Owner-occupation was the most common type of tenure among those in professional and managerial occupations, other non-manual occupations and skilled manual occupations. However, there was, in general, no definite relationship between occupation and type of tenure: some 40 per cent of owner-occupiers had manual occupations and these included one-third of all semi-skilled manual workers and one-quarter of unskilled manual workers.

Properties being purchased with a mortgage or loan had the best provision of basic amenities: fewer than 75,000 lacked basic amenities. Tenants of local authorities were also well provided with basic amenities although 133,000 had no inside WC. Households owning outright and those renting private unfurnished accommodation were the main groups lacking basic amenities. Nearly 400,000 households renting unfurnished accommodation privately lacked at least one basic amenity, as did some 275,000 households owning outright. Shared amenities were most common in furnished lettings.

Fifty-three per cent of households possessed central heating, mostly owner-occupiers with a mortgage and mostly having gas central heating systems.

Ethnic Minorities

The findings with respect to ethnic groups were based on respondents' own assessments of the groups to which they belonged. Pronounced differences emerged, partly as a result of the timing and pattern of migration. For example, 45 per cent of white heads of households were over the age of 55 and 32 per cent were either older small households[1] or single persons aged over 60 living alone. The corresponding figures for West Indian

[1]Two persons aged 16 or over, one or both of whom are aged 60 or over.

households and also Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households were 11 per cent and 3 per cent. Ethnic minorities accounted for proportionately more large families[2] than did whites. If older households are excluded, 30 per cent of West Indian households and 35 per cent of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households were large families, as against 13 per cent of white households. The average size of household was 2·7 persons for white households, 3·7 for West Indian households and 4·3 for Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households.

The economic status of ethnic minority groups also differed from that of the white population, partly as a result of different age distributions. Of heads of household with an identified socio-economic group, 3 per cent of West Indians and 17 per cent of Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were either professional people or employers and managers, compared with 23 per cent of whites. Forty-two per cent of West Indians and 37 per cent of Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis were semi-skilled or unskilled manual workers, as against 21 per cent of whites.

Patterns of tenure were also different. Nearly 50 per cent of West Indian households rented from councils or housing associations, compared with 31 per cent of white households and 11 per cent of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households. Seventy per cent of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households, 55 per cent of white households and 36 per cent of West Indian households were owner-occupiers.

Ethnic minorities were, on average, less well housed than whites. One in seven Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households and one in ten West Indian households shared dwellings, compared with one in 36 white households. One in four Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households and one in seven West Indian households lacked sole use of all basic amenities. In response to the question on satisfaction with accommodation over one-quarter of West Indian households expressed a degree of dissatisfaction compared with 8 per cent of white households and 9 per cent of Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi households.

Density of Occupation

Households living below the bedroom standard tended, almost by definition, to be large families. However, they did not always live in smaller properties than other households: 65 per cent of households who had two or more bedrooms below the standard had at least three bedrooms, as did 50 per cent of households who had one bedroom below the standard.

Use of Basic Amenities

The majority of households lacking at least one basic amenity were elderly: 30 per cent consisted of a single person aged 60 or over and a further 24 per cent consisted of a couple of whom at least one was 60 or over. Only 22 per cent of households without basic amenities were headed by a person aged under 45. The elderly households also tended to live in the oldest houses.

Households sharing basic amenities tended to be young and transitory. Fifty-five per cent of heads of households sharing amenities were aged under 35 and 50 per cent had lived in their accommodation for less than two years. However, 18 per cent of households who, although lacking no basic amenities, had to share some, had lived in their accommodation for ten years or longer. Many of these were among the elderly households who accounted for over one-fifth of all households sharing amenities.

Satisfaction with Accommodation and Area

Respondents to the survey were asked to indicate their degree of satisfaction with their accommodation and the area in general. The scale contained five points, varying from 'very satisfied' to 'very dissatisfied'. Most respondents expressed some degree of satisfaction with their accommodation and the area in which they lived. Eighty-two per cent of respondents were very satisfied or satisfied with their accommodation and 80 per cent were very satisfied or satisfied with the area.

Households Sharing Accommodation

The number of households sharing a dwelling fell from 795,000 in 1971 to 528,000 in 1977. Among the various types of sharing, households sharing rooms and households in bed-sitting rooms exhibited similar characteristics. Sixty per cent of such households consisted of one person aged under 60 (usually aged under 35) and about 55 per cent had lived in their accommodation for less than two years. In contrast, over half the households sharing circulation space or in self-contained accommodation in a shared dwelling contained at least two persons.

Most respondents said they were satisfied with their shared accommodation but a lower than average proportion were very satisfied. Fifteen per cent of households sharing circulation space were registered on a waiting list for a council house.

Concealed Households

The majority of concealed households arose from a married couple or lone parent living with parents or parents-in-law. It is estimated that at the end of 1977 there were 149,000 concealed households of married couples and 104,000 concealed households of lone parents.

Households containing a concealed household were more likely than other households to be crowded. Only 1 per cent of all households were Indian, Pakistani or Bangladeshi although this group accounted for 15 per cent of married couples in concealed households.

Waiting Lists for Council Houses

Five per cent of households said that the head of household was on a council house waiting or transfer list or new town corporation list. An estimated 1·5 million persons were on lists if allowance was made for the fact that some members of a household other than the head were registered. Half of all persons registered on a list were already in council accommodation.

[2]One or two persons aged 16 or over and three or more persons aged 0–15; or three or more persons aged 16 or over and two or more persons aged 0–15.

Age of Accommodation

Owner-occupiers owned about 60 per cent of properties built in all periods except that from 1940 to 1964 during which priority was given to local authority housing. Very few local authority dwellings were built before the first world war and some that were have been purchased more recently from other sectors. Most privately rented accommodation was built before 1919 and this type of tenure represented about a third of properties dating from that period.

Lack of basic amenities was closely related to age of property; although most properties have now had all basic amenities installed, one-sixth of households living in dwellings built before 1919 lacked at least one basic amenity.

Lowest Floor of Accommodation

Eighty per cent of households lived in houses and so street level or lower was their lowest floor of accommodation. Another 8 per cent of households in flats, maisonettes or some other type of accommodation lived on the ground floor or below, leaving only 12 per cent of households with all their rooms above the ground floor.

A high proportion of flats were occupied by households of one person but a substantial proportion, including some above the ninth floor, were occupied by small families containing children under the age of 16. Few large families lived higher than the ground floor.

A comparatively high proportion of households living above the ground floor said they were dissatisfied with their accommodation and a high proportion had their names on the waiting list for a council house. However, over 60 per cent of households said that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their accommodation and this applied even to households living above the ninth floor.

REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Greater London

The analysis of the regional distribution of dwellings showed that the number of households in Greater London fell by 65,000 between 1971 and 1977. This general figure conceals important movements within London; most outer boroughs saw an increase in the number of households but this was outweighed by the loss in the inner boroughs. The rise of 115,000 in the number of dwellings contributed to the halving in the number of households sharing accommodation.

Over the same period a marked improvement in amenities took place. The number of households without exclusive use of a bath or shower halved. There was a pronounced decline in the incidence of overcrowding, the number of households with over one person per room falling by a half.

The number of households renting privately fell by some 30 per cent between 1971 and 1977 while the number of council tenants rose by 25 per cent. In four boroughs over half of all households rented accommodation from either the borough or the Greater London Council.

In Inner London a large number of households had someone registered on a waiting list or transfer list for council accommodation. Three out of four households were satisfied with their accommodation and seven out of ten households were satisfied with their area; corresponding figures for the rest of the country were higher. The survey found that there was more likely to be dissatisfaction with accommodation or area in Inner London than in other regions.

South East (excluding Greater London)

Between 1971 and 1977 both the number of dwellings and the number of households increased by over 10 per cent. The number of households without exclusive use of basic amenities fell by over one-third while there was an increase of one-sixth in the number of owner-occupiers; by the end of 1977 three out of five households were owner-occupiers, a proportion exceeded only in the South West.

North

A substantial reduction occurred between 1971 and 1977 in the incidence of shared accommodation as there was an increase of 85,000 in the number of dwellings but an increase of only 60,000 in the number of households. Ninety-four per cent of households by the end of 1977 had exclusive use of all basic amenities, the highest percentage for all regions.

The North had the highest proportion of households renting accommodation from local authorities (40 per cent) and the lowest proportion of owner-occupiers.

North West

The number of households lacking exclusive use of basic amenities halved between 1971 and 1977 but this region still had, at the end of the period, the highest proportion of households without amenities. It also had relatively high proportions of lone-parent households and households living in overcrowded accommodation. Nearly 60 per cent of households were owner-occupiers but 40 per cent of the properties concerned were leasehold, which was more than twice as high as in any other region.

Yorkshire and Humberside

Between 1971 and 1977 there occurred an above-average fall in the number of households lacking exclusive use of basic amenities. By the end of 1977 the region was equal to the national average for use of amenities and adequacy of space. Changes in tenure were similar to the national pattern.

West Midlands

The number of households without exclusive use of basic amenities was halved between 1971 and 1977, as was the number of overcrowded households. Changes in types of tenure over the period were similar to those for England as a whole. By the end of 1977 the region had the second highest proportion of council tenants.

East Midlands

Between 1971 and 1977 there were increases of over 10 per cent in both the number of households and the number of dwellings. The number of owner-occupiers increased by one-third and the number of council tenants by one-quarter; the number of private lettings fell by one-fifth. The number of households lacking exclusive use of basic amenities was more than halved and there was a fall of one-third in the number of households living at over one person per room. However, this region still had the second highest proportion of households with no bath, shower or inside WC.

The region had the highest proportion of detached houses and the lowest proportion of flats; only one household in 25 lived above the ground floor.

East Anglia

There was rapid growth in this region in the 1970s. Both the number of households and the number of dwellings rose by one-sixth between 1971 and 1977. The number of owner-occupiers increased by one-third and the number of council tenants by one-fifth. The number of households lacking exclusive use of basic amenities was virtually halved. By the end of 1977 this region had the lowest incidence of households living below the bedroom standard.

South West

Rapid changes also took place in the South West during the 1970s. There was a rise of a third in the number of owner-occupiers and a rise of a quarter in the number renting from local authorities. By the end of 1977 the region had the highest proportion of owner-occupiers (60 per cent) and the lowest proportion of council tenants (less than 25 per cent). Although there was a fall of one-third in the number of households without exclusive use of basic amenities this decline was less marked than in other regions. The proportion of households claiming to be very satisfied with their accommodation and area was the highest in any region.

DOCUMENTATION

Government and Administration

Direct Elections to the European Assembly. COI, SN6050.

Residence in Britain: Notes for People from Overseas. COI, R6026.

External Affairs and Defence

Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community. This publication supersedes Treaty Series No 1 (1973), Part II, pp 162-255, Cmnd 5179. Cmnd 7462. HMSO, £1·75. ISBN 0 10 174620 2.

Financial Protocol between the European Economic Community and [Cyprus] (with Final Act). Cmnd 7490. HMSO, 30p. ISBN 0 10 174900 7.

Convention between . . . the United Kingdom . . . and [Poland] . . . on Co-operation in the Field of Culture, Education and Science (see pp 429-30, 1978). Cmnd 7492. HMSO, 25p. ISBN 0 10 174920 1.

Agreement between . . . the United Kingdom . . . and . . . Romania on Co-operation in the Fields of Education, Science and Culture . . . (see pp 256-7, 1978). Cmnd 7493. HMSO, 30p. ISBN 0 10 174930 9.

Agreement between . . . the United Kingdom . . . and . . . Thailand for the Promotion of the Investment of Capital and the Protection of Investments. Cmnd 7478. HMSO, 25p. ISBN 0 10 174780 2.

Economic and Scientific Affairs

Minimum Lending Rate (MLR). The Bank of England's MLR was reduced by 1 per cent on 5 April to 12 per cent. Bank of England press notice, 5.4.79.

PAYE – Possible Future Developments. A report from the Inland Revenue which examines the implications of plans to computerise the Pay-As-You-Earn (PAYE) system of tax payment. Copies are available free from the Public Enquiry Room, New Wing, Somerset House, Strand, London WC2R 1LB.

Supply Estimates 1979-80. Cmnd 7524. HMSO, £1·50. ISBN 0 10 175240 7.

Cash Limits 1979-80. Cmnd 7515. HMSO, 50p. ISBN 0 10 175150 8.

Supplementary Special Deposits Scheme. The Bank of England announced on 3 April that, with the approval of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it had decided to continue the operation of the supplementary special deposits scheme (see pp 214 and 334, 1978) for a further period of three months. Bank of England press notice, 3.4.79.

Report of the Civil Service Pay Research Unit Board and the Civil Service Pay Research Unit 1979. The Pay Research Unit Board was set up to monitor and safeguard the independence of the Pay Research Unit, which collects the evidence for negotiations on Civil Service pay. HMSO, £1·75. ISBN 0 11 630418 9.

Regional Development Programme. United Kingdom 1978-80. No 10 in the Regional Policy Series published by the Commission of the European Community. Available from HMSO, £3·60. ISBN 92 825 0491 3.

National Enterprise Board: Annual Report and Accounts 1978 (See p 130). Available from NEB, 12-18 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DW. £2.

Industrial Research and Development Expenditure in 1975. Two articles in *Trade and Industry* giving analyses of industrial research and development expenditure for the last year for which details are available. *Trade and Industry*, 6.4.79.

Private Contractors' Construction Census 1977. HMSO, £1·25. ISBN 0 11 751131 5.

Construction. COI, FSI/10.

International Tourism and Strategic Planning. In its strategic plan for the next three years the British Tourist Authority (BTA) warns that Britain is unlikely to witness a continuation of the expansion in tourism of the past decade. This is because

of the slowing in world economic growth and increased competition from other countries. Available from the BTA, 64 St James's Street, London SW1A 1NF. £1. ISBN 0 7095 0096 3.

Haddock (West of Scotland and Rockall) Licensing Order 1979. This Order prohibits the fishing for haddock by British vessels 40-feet long and over on Scottish west coast grounds including Rockall, except under licence. It supplements a similar Order relating to the North Sea (see p 346, 1978). S.I. 1979, No 71. HMSO, 20p. ISBN 0 11 093071 1.

Herring By-Catch (Restrictions on Landing) (No 2) (Variation) Order 1979. This Order further restricts the landing of herring caught by vessels fishing for other species of fish (see p 404, 1976). S.I. 1979, No 398. HMSO, 10p. ISBN 0 11 093397 4.

Central Transport Consultative Committee for Great Britain: Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 1978. HMSO, 80p. ISBN 0 10 235879 6.

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